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TOWNSEND AND TOWNSEND AND CREW, LLP
TWO EMBARCADERO CENTER
EIGHTH FLOOR
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94111-3834

AUG 2 7 2005

In re Application of:
YUTAKA TAKATA ET AL.
Serial No.: 10/632,750
Filed: 01 August 2003
Docket: 16869K-086100US
Title: DISK CONTROLLER AND CONTROLLING METHOD OF SAME

DECISION ON PETITION TO MAKE SPECIAL UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.102(d)

This is a decision on the petition filed on August 30, 2004, resubmitted on February 03, 2005, to make the above-identified application special under the accelerated examination procedure set forth in MPEP § 708.02(VIII) in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.102(d).

The petition to make the application special is **DISMISSED**.

In support of the petition, petition provides: a) the applicable petition fee; b) a statement that all claims are directed to a single invention, and that any election later required will be made without traverse; c) a statement that a pre-examination search was made, including the search areas; d) a copy of each of the references deemed most closely related to the claimed subject matter; and e) a discussion of the teaching of the references.

For accelerated examination under MPEP § 708.02(VIII) in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.102(d), a showing of the following is required: a) a petition to make special accompanied by the applicable petition fee; b) all claims are directed to a single invention; c) a statement that a pre-examination search was made, including the search areas; d) a copy of each of the references deemed most closely related to the claimed subject matter; and e) a detailed discussion of the references pointing out with the particularity required by 37 CFR 1.111 (b) and (c), how the claimed subject matter is distinguishable over the references.

The requirements of MPEP § 708.02(VIII)(a), (c), and (d) are considered to have been met. However, petitioner fails to point out with the particularity required by 37 CFR § 1.111 (b) and (c), how the claimed subject matter is distinguishable over the *each* of the references. Therefore, petitioner fails to meet the requirement of MPEP § 708.02(VIII)(e).

37 CFR § 1.111 (b) states"[a] general allegation that the claims define a patentable invention without specifically pointing out how the language of the claims patentably distinguishes them from the references does not comply with the requirements of this section." 37 CFR § 1.111 (c) states in part "the applicant or patent owner must clearly point out the patentable novelty which he or she thinks the claims present in view of the state of the art disclosed by the references cited or the objections made."

Petitioner presents a summary of the limitations of independent claims 1 and 13, a statement that none of the references disclose the disc controller coupled to a network controlling unit through an internal bus, wherein each of the components are located on the same circuit board, found in the independent claims 1 and 13, and a list of each of the cited references along with a short summary of the teachings of each reference.

Petitioner fails to distinguish each independent claim from each reference in a manner satisfying 37 CFR § 1.111 (b) and (c). For instance, with respect to submitted reference to US 2003/0105767 A1, petitioner does not specifically state the particular way in which each of the references differs from the claimed invention. For instance, petitioner does not state whether a particular reference lacks a bus, or lacks each component being on the same circuit board, or lack some other specific combination of the claimed invention. A general statement that the claimed invention is not taught is not sufficient. The same defect is found for all of the submitted references. Such a statement is required under 37 CFR § 1.111 (b) and (c). A mere summary of the claims and the references, with no comparison and distinguishment between the two, is insufficient to satisfy the requirements of MPEP § 708.02(VIII)(e). A general statement that the claimed invention is not taught is not sufficient.

While Technology Center Directors may have granted petitions that do not comply with the detailed discussion requirement of the Accelerated Examination procedure, Technology Center Director decisions on petitions are not binding precedent of the Patent Examining Corps, and the application of an improper standard in certain cases does not require the Office to continue to apply the improper standard in all cases. *See In re The Boulevard Entertainment, Inc.*, 334 F.3d 1336, 1343, 67 USPQ2d 1475, 1480 (Fed. Cir. 2003)).

For the above-mentioned reasons, the petition is dismissed. The application will therefore be taken up by the examiner for action in its regular turn.

Any request for reconsideration of this decision must be submitted within 2 (two) months of the date of this decision in order to be considered timely. Any grantable petition will require the claims to be directed towards a single invention only.

Any inquiry regarding this decision should be directed to Hien H. Phan, Special Program Examiner, at (571) 272-1606.

Hien H. Phan, Special Program Examiner
Technology Center 2800 - Semiconductors,
Electrical & Optical Systems & Components